

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04860 260737Z

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 /104 W

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P 241040Z JUL 76

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4860

FROM SCRANTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN XG YO OVIP

SUBJ: SCRANTON-MINIC MEETING - ISRAEL

1. GOVERNOR SCRANTON MET WITH YUGOSLAVIA'S FOREIGN SECRETARY MILOS MINIC AT SVETI STEFAN ON JUL 23, 1976. DURING THEIR MEETING THEY DISCUSSED ISRAEL.

2. GOVERNOR SCRANTON ASKED ABOUT ISRAEL. MINIC SAID HE WAS STILL DUBIOUS WHETHER ARABS CURRENTLY HAD STRENGTH TO TAKE A COMMON STAND. MINIC HOPED THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO. HE STRESSED THAT RESOLUTION IN LEBANON WOULD BE HELPFUL.

3. WHEN SCRANTON ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF A CALL FOR ISRAEL'S EXPULSION FROM UN AT COLOMBO SUMMIT, MINIC REPLIED THAT THIS "ALWAYS COMES UP". MINIC CALLED FOR CHANGE IN ISRAEL'S POLICY. MINIC SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA COULD NOT "BANISH" VIEW THAT ISRAEL'S POLICY IS A "SHORT-TERM ONE". MINIC UNDERLINED THAT ISRAEL HAD ITSELF TO BLAME FOR ITS UNFAVORABLE SITUATION. MINIC COUNTINUED THAT ISRAEL THOUGHT IT HAD U.S. IN ITS "POCKET". MINIC EMPHASIZED THAT ARABS AND OTHERS HAD VERY STRONG VIEWS AGAINST ISRAELIS. MINIC SAID, HOWEVER, THAT YUGOSLAVIA DID NOT

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 04860 260737Z

CONSIDER ISRAELI EXPULSION "PROPITIOUS". HE BELIEVED THAT,

IF NOTHING HAPPENED TO WORSEN OR IMPROVE MATTERS, COLOMBO WOULD CALL FOR CHAPTER VII SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL AS AT LIMA.

4. MINIC SAID YUGOSLAVIA COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY U.S. HAD VETOED JANUARY 1976 UNSC RESOLUTION ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION. MINIC SAID THAT DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS A BREAKTHROUGH IN THAT IT MANIFESTED ARAB RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL AND ARAB ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL'S JUNE 5, 1967 BOUNDARIES. MINIC SAW THREE ESSENTIAL POINTS IN RESOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM:

(A) WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES;

(B) RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND A STATE OF THEIR OWN; AND

(C) RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL.

5. IN REPLY, SCRANTON STRONGLY EMPHASIZED OUR VIEW THAT JANUARY 1976 DRAFT DEFECT OF FAILING TO PROVIDE FOR NEGOTIATION OF ISRAEL'S BORDERS. IT THUS PREJUDGED MATTERS. SOME RECTIFICATION OF ISRAEL'S JUNE 5, 1967 BORDERS IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOR SECURE BOUNDARIES.

6. MINIC DID NOT RELENT AND URGED FURTHER STUDY OF JANUARY 1976 DRAFT, WHICH HE AGAIN STRESSED REPRESENTED A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS RESOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

COMMENT: WE GATHERED THAT YUGOSLAVS CONTINUE TO WANT TO USE JANUARY 1976 DRAFT AS BASIS FOR A COLOMBO RESOLUTION AND THAT THEY WILL STRONGLY SUPPORT CHAPTER VII SANCTIONS.

SILBERMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELGRA04860
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760286-0537
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760725/aaaaavkc.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCRANTON-MINIC MEETING - ISRAEL
TAGS: OVIP, XG, YO, US, UN, (SCRANTON, WILLIAM W), (MINIC, MILOS)
To: STATE TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006